Marathi Programmes

2009. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been made by a group of the Marathi television programme producers, directors and artists regarding telecast of Marathi Programmes from 7.30 p.m. to 11 p.m. on DD-1;

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken to meet this demand;

(c) whether DD-10 is a Marathi Channel but its timings are odd and is available only through cable and does not reach out to the far corners of Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to ensure that channel DD-10 can be viewed throughout Maharashtra without cable?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) DD-10 (Marathi Channel) is a Satellite Channel, which can be seen with the help of a cable or a dish antenna not only in the State of Maharashtra but throughout the length and breadth of the country. Marathi programmes are also available on the regional network, terrestrially all over the State of Maharashtra between 4.30 P.M. to 8.30 P.M.

Publication of News Papers/Magazines

2010. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of daily, weekly and other news papers/ journals/magazines being published in the country Category-wise as on December 31, 1996;

(b) the number of them are likely to face closure because of increase in cost of production following the levy of 10% customs duty on newsprint;

(c) whether the Government have received protests from INS and other bodies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) As per records maintained in the office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India, the information is as follows:

Number of dailies	:	4453
Number of weeklies	:	13617
Number of other publications	:	24319

(b) Regarding closure of newspapers because of increase in cost of production following the levy of 10% customs duty on newsprint, no such information is available in the Ministry.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Indian Newspaper Society has submitted a representation demanding removal of 10% customs duty, removal of quantitative and other restrictions on import of newsprint, abolition of Newsprint Control Order 1962, reduction of import duties on the machinery, consumables, spares etc. used by the newsprint industry and to base the actual user requirement only on the registration certificate if the actual user condition is to be imposed for import to newsprint. The Government takes into account different factors while formulating its policies and seeks to strike a balance between the various points of view.

[*Translation*]

Devas-Harda Railway Line

2011. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted earlier to link Devas (Western Railway) with Harda (Central Railway) in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above rail line is likely to be laid down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Urdu Programme

2012. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) details of Urdu newspapers on the approved list of the Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity as on April 1, 1996 with their circulation, State-wise;

(b) the details of additions to this list by December, 1996 State-wise; and

(c) the rate of advertisements released to each of these newspapers during 1995-96 and 1996-97 so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Details are given in the attached statement.

(c) The rate of each newspaper depends on their circulation. It is worked out as per a rate structure devised by the Rate Structure Committee, and is related to circulation. During 1995-96, the advertisement rates of Urdu